IN REVERENT FEAR - THE KISSCUT - NO HOLLYWOOD ENDING - ASH MONDAY

CRUCIAL POINT

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ANNE FRANK &

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

IN HARM'S WAY

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

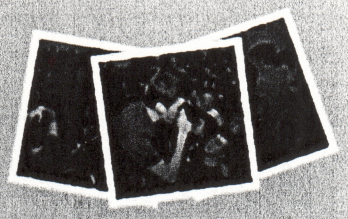
Death-like in their sound, a pure massacre unfolding in every song, and shots of pain along with the infamous chills crawling up you back and down your neck at the very first beat. John Buckelew (guitars), Alan Scarpa (bass), John Abbate (vocals), and Ian DiBenedetto (guitars) make up the Central Jersey-based hardcore/screamo band In Harm's Way. According to Scarpa, the band played "very simple boring music" until they recruited Lurch aka Abbate, who "added complexity and heaviness." It was also noted that DiBenedetto had great influence on the band in making their music more technical. Together, In Harm's Way has learned from being in a band that it takes a lot of hard work. "It's fun, but its nothing easy. You have to be willing to bust your ass off." Well their hard work has paid off so far, obvious enough when listening to their music. The songs are flat-out unbelievable. The band is now working on getting the money together for the release of their five-song EP, *All Glamour Is Dead*. The members are looking to start touring, with hopes that a label will soon come along to help them out. Not signed as of yet, but In Harm's Way has been looking at several different labels, some of which include Drive-Thru, Ferret, Fiddler, Trustkill, and No Milk Records.

MY EYES JUST CLOSED

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Hardcore Jersey band My Eyes Just Closed have out a three-song demo, keeping fans occupied until the release of their upcoming EP. Charlie Blackwell on guitars and vocals, Anthony Gerahty on guitars, Andrew Lofrano on bass, and Scott Rosen on drums are racing forward to rule the world and actually make a living off of what they are doing. The band's metalcore music can sometimes be so loud and intimidating, but they rock too much for audiences to ignore the talent they hold. The band's music branches off a lot on random guitar riffs Blackwell may be putting out, with lyrics building off on that. The late Kurt Cobain has also been My Eyes Just Closed's biggest musical influence, but not regarding their sound. "Our sound can be influenced by Thursday, From Autumn To Ashes, and Killswitch Engage," Blackwell stated. My Eyes Just Closed is playing, making music and doing something they love; at the same time, doing it for their beloved fans. All members are bringing different ideas and different feelings into the band, helping them muchly in their progression as musicians, rock stars, and whatever else they hope to be. They are soon to be coming up with a handful of shows, playing venues such as Chubby's, Bloomfield Ave. Café & Stage, and Hamilton St. Café.

DEAD HEAT
BAND IMAGE HOSTING



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THE STORY OF OURSELVES

Written by Melissa L. Gaffney & Alexis Diane Cook

Amanda Tafuro (guitars and vocals), Avery Brooks (drums and vocals), and Jackie Sullivan (bass) make up the rock band, The Story Of Ourselves. The group is spread out through the upper East Coast, but that hasn't stopped them from playing. In 2002, after Tafuro worked on a solo project, she altered her musical route and began to form a full band. When moving to New Jersey for a few months, she met Sullivan, and along with Brooks (a friend since high school) The Story Of Ourselves was born. Regarding their song writing process, Sullivan commented, "Since we are based out of New York City, its difficult to practice and write material together. Usually Amanda writes the initial material and Avery and I build the rest of the song around that." Influences also tend to vary among the band, commented Tafuro, "My biggest individual influence is Letters To Cleo, and Kay Hanley is my musical hero." There are no wild stunts the band will pull off onstage, but nothing could take away from the music they are putting out. The band has their first full length out now, titled *Living It This Way*, and also has a ton more shows to come!

No more all-guy bands anymore; a chick can rock just as hard. The Post Office Gals, consisting of members Jacob Olson on drums, Andrew Bilgrav on bass, Daniel Schlett on guitar, Jessica delRosario on synth, and Roman Stefaniw with vocals, is a band of intriguing chords and luscious melodies. The screaming is there, but this grindcore/experimental band is far from your day to day hardcore. The band itself at this point is the members' key inspiration in the creation of their music, along with influences like "old progressive bands from the 70's, like Yes, and then a lot of metal and grind like Slayer and Metallica." Asked of the band's goals, Schlett responded, "We just want to become a household name. I think it would be amazing for a grind band to be talked about over a family meal after Dad has come home from a rough day at work." Thus far they've not only played a mountain of shows, but have been through two East Coast tours, and released three demos since forming. And as of now, The Post Office Gals are working on their full U.S. tour through mid-summer, and on August 16th, their ten-track EP, *Esbeohdes*, will be released off OTR Records.

THE POST OFFICE GALS

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

FROM THE ASHES

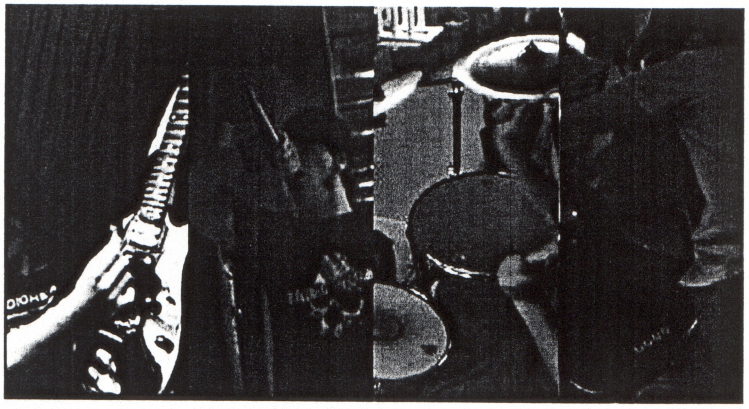
Written by Alexis Diane Cook

"In my eyes, I would just like to make music for a living…" commented singer Marc Snyder of, From The Ashes. "Being a musician is hard work…I do it cause I love to sing, cause I love to perform, and I get a rise seeing a crowd nod their head to something we've created." Pennsylvania-based rock band, From The Ashes, has actually only been together for almost seven months now, and they've released a three-song demo and have "collectively written eleven songs together." Snyder, along with members Bryan Focht (guitars), Anthony Seal (drums), and Jim Dibattista (bass) plan to stay pretty local regarding shows before they start off on any big tours. "I'd like to have at least 15-20 songs before touring, and have them polished and ready for the road," Snyder said. When asked what they looked forward to most while getting up onstage, Focht answered, "I look forward to getting back off. I always am really nervous before a show, but feel high as a kite afterwards." From The Ashes' rock/grunge sound is just the sort of music fully capable of reaching an audience outside of the upper East Coast hardcore scene. Hard rock all the way, with a twist of metal, and brutal riffs screaming along with every beat. There's no comparison in this situation, From The Ashes has created their own rock-driven force that is now doing nothing but taking the band further, and higher in a world all of music.

Held together with overly fast drum beats you'd expect out of someone like the late John Bonham, lacking in absolutely nothing, and shooting for a more "modern, un-retro, psychedelic, non-stoner" musical category, guitar and vocalist Juliann Grefe, guitarist Adam Gery, keyboardist Jeremy Gewertz, bassist Devon McGovern, and drummer Brian Strahle have formed the Philedelphia-based post hardcore/experimental group The Angles. "We like to think of our songs as mini-epics, tons of dynamics both linearly in the compositions and in the arrangements," the band commented, "like Black Flag playing Yes songs." With the amount of power the band's songs hold, "mini-epics" seems like a more than perfect word to describe their style. The Angels' music, as intriguing as it is, is just so unheard of, but at the same time its rock-core, mind pounding energy is pushing limits far and wide. The Angels are "exploring" through a few labels, but with nothing as a direct promise just yet. Along with finishing up their EP in mid-June, they plan to continue with shows, adding to the list they've formed performing up and down the East Coast, but they don't have any tours in the making as of now. Not a problem though, their touring schedule could never take away from the sound they've brought to life.

THE ANGELS

Written by Alexis Diane Cook



THOUGHTS PAST

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

"We just want to be recognized by the end of our careers whether it be through us being famous or not, that we put every ounce of emotion into our music," commented Thoughts Past singer Jay Van Clief. Along with members Matt Accerra on guitar, Mike Taylor on bass, and Mike DiCarolis on drums, the band will be entering Hell Studios to begin recording for their upcoming self-titled EP, which will be released at their June 5th show at Wiired Inc. Van Clief stated, "It will carry three songs from our catalog that best define us as a band at this point." Instrumentally, this Brick Township hardcore band has an extremely exciting sound, along with the sort of "experimental/rock" riffs that tear up the local scene bands. The vocals range deeply, from the lowest screams possible, to glass shattering cries piercing your ears. Even in entire songs, the melodies shift gears ultimately and the roaring music turns to massive breakdowns that blow your mind. Thoughts Past's music could be best defined as a heart grabbing-attention stealing craft that absorbs your energy into the sets. Dancing mania is sure to pop up while this band is onstage; thrashing and pounding, fans and the band itself going completely insane during every song.

AC SLATER

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

They certainly don't hold the fast, very much upbeat type of hardcore we're also so easily addicted to. Their music is definitely something to move around and dance to and piss people off in the most amusing way possible, but the heaviness it's vibe carries really knows how to place AC Slater's picture next to the definition of "hardcore." The Toms River, New Jersey, band is made up of members James Hodges (guitar), Justin Wolpert (bass), Justin Callanan (drums), Andrew Osojich (high vocals), and Nick Frizino (low vocals). In creating their music Hodges commented, "Whenever we get stuck as a band, we think, 'what would Black Sabbath do?'" And for AC Slater, bringing something new and different into the scene mainly consists of not "playing the same Unearth covers, or Thursday singing parts, or copying Throwdown mosh parts…we steer clear of all the aspects that have gotten played out." The band has hoped to create a sound unlike others, and they very much have. One of the band's members have just recently built a studio in his basement, so AC Slater will be recording an EP they plan to finish within mid-June. Afterwards, they intend on spending the summer "playing all over the place." Also noted as some stage action to be aware of, "When you put a microphone in Nick's hand, he becomes the biggest asshole in the world. You just have to see him to understand it. He's pretty confrontational."

TRADITION

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Hardcore and Punk that's absolutely nothing like what you think you've heard before. Far from the stereotypical image of either genre, members of Tradition, Ryan 'Nolastname' (guitar), Caitlin Sears (bass), Devin King (Drums) and Creepynes, Jeremy Sears (vocals) are not spending their time making music that pleases only one specific group of people. They have come up with a sound that stretches through such a diverse audience, bringing these kids together for the most important part of the scene: the music. Oddly enough that's not something every band is capable of accomplishing; looks can be quite deceiving. Based out of Cincinatti, Ohio, Tradition has come out with an intense sound. With musical artists to look up to like Black Flag and Internal Affairs, the members of Tradition seem to apply themselves so fully while playing, something only thought of when you're listening to them. Grinding at the edge of punk music, Tradition is simply kick ass. Their one-of-a-kind musical attitude has led them through many great accomplishments, along with such impressive songs they have created with one another. The band's fans should be looking forward to so many more awesome shows to come.

Q. Musically, what have you as a band accomplished thus far?

A. Twelve songs, a few covers, some bad shows, more rad shows.

Q. Do you have any demos or full lengths you will be releasing in the near future?

A. We have a four-song demo we recorded in November. And soon, a twelve-song LP on Self Core Records titled, *Forever*, and a split with Straight And Alert from Evansville, Indiana.

Q. Do you intend on touring this summer?

A. Yes, as much as we can.

Q. How would you describe the band musically?

A. Dark, melodic, heavy, emotional, straight edge.

Special shout-outs from the Tradition to: S&A, Ten33, Suffocate Faster, Brainz Out, Coalition RIP, Bloodmoney 513, Get A Life, the CXCB, AYS, and everyone that stays up with Tradition.

THE MINUS SCALE

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

"We have made the band something that kind of runs on its own. We don't put any money into it. Everything comes from the shows we put on and the merch we sell. It's pretty nice actually. We have sold a modest amount of records, but a lot of kids are starting to catch on, which is great. The best part is that a lot of these people are people we stay in contact with, so while we are building up a fan-base, we have an awesome group of new friends from here to Jersey to West Virginia to Wisconsin. It's great. This summer we hope to pick up where we left off last summer!"

New Hampshire-based indie/rock band The Minus Scale, doesn't have to prove much to their fans through direct live performances; their music itself says it all. Members Ryan Levasseur (vocals and guitar), AJ Tobey (guitar and vocals), Mark Tobey (bass), and Bruce O'Neill (drums), regardless of proving anything or not, remain overly lucky to have the amount of fans they do at this point. Musically, the band really knows how to rock, and it shows. They're not putting out music that is screaming and whining and crying all through its entirety, they're putting out real music that means something, that sounds good and is totally worth listening to. They're not playing crap they don't all enjoy, just to please the crowds; they're making music that they truly love. The band had also described their sound as, "a cross pellonation between new rock and the classics, like Led-Zeppelin and Black Sabbath."

The band as whole is overly powerful down to the core. Their music is their life, and together The Minus Scale is doing exactly what they cherish. "We strive to survive on our own as much as possible," Levasseur commented, "we book our own tours…I guess our goal is to make music forever, to meet like-minded people, and to create lasting relationships around the country, and next year, hopefully the world."

The Minus Scale now has out their EP *APATHY! APATHY!* and has just released their latest demo, *Captain.* The band is now looking forward to recording again and putting out a full length by 2006. And in any touring situation, they will be spending six weeks through the summer playing shows around the eastern part of the U.S., "basically from Mississippi to the East Coast."

Music is one of the high points, but some of the members do hold outside projects from The Minus Scale. "I'm working on something called Mass Romantics," said Levasseur, "with my friend Nate Tortorro. I'm not quite sure what it's going to be like yet, but we'll see. Let's just say Nate wants to try out for American Idol." There have also been random rumors regarding AJ and Mark playing a show in the Fall with a hardcore band called My Breath On Glass.

All in all, The Minus Scale has shown to be an impressive band, with such wonderful hopes and goals.

YOU FAIL ME

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Overly similar to that of certain South Jersey bands the local crowds here are so use to, guitarists and bassist of Missouri-based screamo/post hardcore band, You Fail Me, are known to nearly take the head off of their singer while onstage performing. Guitarists Steve Fulmer and Brett Gregory, bassist Drew Farmer, drummer Chad Bechtel, and singer Justin Pointer have musically stirred together a slight twist of their influences; and though they've been said to have sound like a mix between Underoath and Funeral For A Friend, they have also supplied us with their own style and flavor eating it's way through all music. There is no definite band you could pin-point out regarding who they may sound like, You Fail Me is just one of those bands that simply cannot be compared. In late 2004, after Farmer and Fulmer's idea of a band crossed over to reality, one by one the members of You Fail Me slowly entered the soon-to-be band. Gregory, being the final member to join, had officially filled in their missing puzzle piece. In being involved with Kansas City's musical scene before moving to Missouri, Gregory had altered this once emo band into the "fierce guitar harmonizing, vocal shredding, scream-core juggernaut" they are today. Placing 3rd at their debut show, at a Battle Of The Bands, You Fail Me has since been gigging wherever possible and gaining a fan base throughout the Midwest. Other than attending college, and some fitting in full-time jobs, Fulmer, Gregory, Farmer, Bechtel, and Pointer are all highly dedicated to their band. At this point, You Fail Me has a three-song demo they are "giving away online and at shows," doing what they can to get their music heard. They're now hoping to begin working on a full-length, along with getting a ton if shows, plus possibly touring through the Midwest over the summer. Hopefully this band will soon be touring along the Eat Coast also!

THE JONBENET

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

To quote The Jonbenét, this "spastic post hardcore" band from Houston, Texas, are in current negotiations with record labels and have a full U.S. tour lined up they will be heading out for in July. Drummer Drew Ireland, guitarist Dann Miller, singer Michael Murland, and bassist Will Spent put out music with a slight "southern rock" edge among the screaming, thrashing riffs and melodies that make up their songs. They have some of the most awesome breakdowns, and the vocals are completely unforgettable. A lot of chilling beats tend to make their way into the music, adding to the hardcore foundation that the band is so classically made of. It seems to be the sort of vibe every hardcore band seeks to place through their songs, which The Jonbenét has so unknowingly wrapped you up in the second their music starts. They're nothing short of pure, beautiful, disastrous music, created by musicians who know how to rock your world. The band has self-produced two of their releases, thus far, plan to have out new release in the near future, and have "toured extensively throughout North America." One could only imagine how outstanding live shows are for the group, as they commented, "we like to hurt the drums and drummer." The Jonbenét's summer tour along side The Kidnap Soundtrack will begin in their home state, as they move up to the North East, over the West Coast, and then return to the south. For more touring info on this southern post hardcore band, you can check them out on the web at www.thejonbenet.com, find a venue near you, and go to see them tear a part, and completely own the entire show!

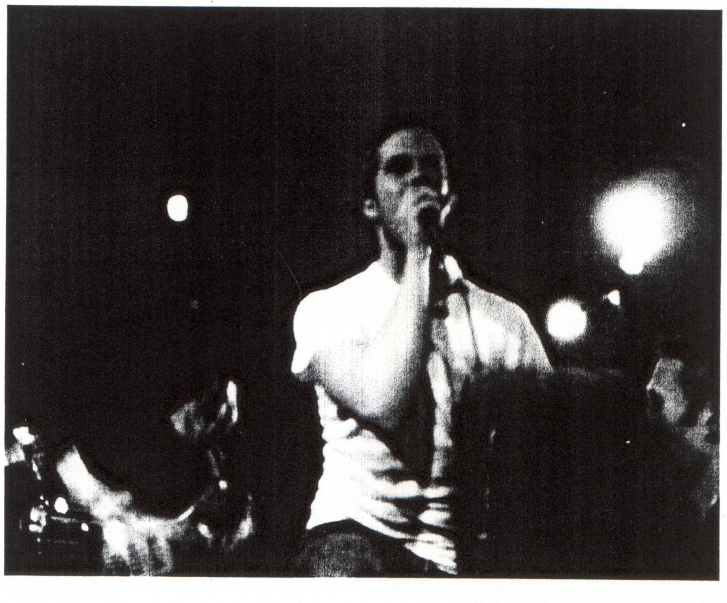
IN REVERENT FEAR

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

They formed in 1999, the lineup has since slightly changed, and aside from writing up new material, they're looking to get a full length out by this fall. California-based post hardcore/indie band In Reverent Fear, members Jeff Tollefson (bass), Stephen Reinhardt (guitar), Jarrod Taylor (vocals/guitar), and David Briggs (drums), are now looking forward to their upcoming West Coast tour this summer with Let Live.

The driving-creative force among the band is nothing but the members themselves. Commented by Taylor, "We all create music, I do the lyrics. What causes us to create is the many wonders/atrocities of life. Literature, film, art, traveling, and each other are the driving forces of the band." Well all they're doing seems to be going over just fine. Their music is not something you could classify as hardcore or indie by themselves. More obvious is how they have blended the two together, along with their own artistic flow of music, adding just enough flare to bring out its outstanding originality. Their odd uniqueness is what makes In Reverent Fear the sort of band you wish you were in.

They have no intense pre-show rituals, other than sometimes praying or chatting among each other. But In Reverent Fear's live shows can become chaotic at times, more-so from the reactions they get out of the audience. Stunts pulled like the crowd of young kids dancing and singing along with the band, but the members tend to find it doubtful there is anything they pull off themselves.



Though not having directly commented on the size of their fan-base, In Reverent Fear has gradually gained fans among all states in which they've performed. When asked about the fans, Taylor, regarding the band's New Jersey fans, had also commented, "We have met some of the most lovely people, especially in New Jersey, everyone there was so great to us and took us to the beach, the first time most of us had seen the Atlantic." Good to know they enjoyed their stay!

In 2001, they released an EP titled *Living A Life In Debt To Another*. And in 2003 were able to release their full length, *Written In the A.M.* "We were happy with the outcome," Taylor said, "yet most of those songs were written when we were 16-18 years old, so they don't hold the same weight as we are all in our mid-twenties, save for David but he is new." They've been writing music, and demoing new material for roughly two years now, and plan to record another full length in the fall.

They're greatest accomplishment thus far has been to create what they want without feeling confined, and are now striving just to write good songs/stories something leading to only greater rewards.

SPARKLE MOTION

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Mike S. (vocals), Scott Harrison (bass), Jeff Richie (guitars), and drummer Wud, make up the punk/thrash band, Sparkle Motion. The band has just released their first full length, *Hot Day In Heaven*, featuring core-pounding songs like "Underminer" and "Deep Red." Their punk/hardcore music is like an extension of Guns N Roses meets The Sex Pistols, although the band's influences revolve mainly around bands such as Black Flag and Social Distortion. Whether they sound like their influences or not, that doesn't take away from the mind-boggling music they have created. When they formed, they weren't as good as hoped, but had very little intentions on stopping what they were doing, and are blasting through the venues now and rockin' all our hearts. These four musicians are shooting for what a lot of new 'scene' bands are reaching for, to have fun while they play, and get as many shows as possible. With the right amount of hope and determination along with their great talent base, that shouldn't be too hard for Sparkle Motion to accomplish very soon. They will be playing a handful of local shows all through May, and by June will begin their summer tour, something in which the fans just can't wait for. But they will also be taking a short break, and continue again in mid-July.

GOOD MORROW

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Take a handful of punk, take another handful of hardcore, then add in the tiniest bit of the infamous "screamo," and what is it you get? Good Morrow. Ryan Popek (lead vocals/guitar), George Vanderbilt (lead vocals/guitar), Mike Favara (bass), and Kyle Quigley (drums), are now in the process of working on their upcoming eight-song CD. It'll be their first ever, something very exciting for the group and their fans, and they are doing the best they can to show people exactly what they are made of. The band's music branches from a line of different models like Senses Fail, Green Day, and From First To Last. Although they don't directly sound like the bands they're looking up to, it's not hard to figure out where the musical vibe is coming from. And according to the band, their brutal combination of hardcore and punk rock will always be giving the fans something fresh and new for them to listen to. Their songs are always telling a story, something they can constantly relate to and express through the music they write. Along with the new CD, Good Morrow also intends on playing shows over the summer non-stop, with a possible tour in the later months. As of now the anticipation of their upcoming release and show dates, is slowly and quietly building among the local crowds.

MONSTER SQUAD

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Full blown punk music, adding in a pianist to its sound, and demolishing all stereotypical punk bands. Dallas Destruction (vocals), Brian Rules (bass and backing vocals), Deadboy (guitar and backing vocals), River (guitar), Dave Toyes (keyboards/organ/piano), and Danny Money (drums) have formed Jersey punk band, Monster Squad. This isn't exactly your 'old-school punk band', and when asked of the band to describe their sound, they answered, "get four CD players and a DVD player, put on *Night Of the Living Dead*, or some other equally awesome horror movie, then put on a Misfits CD, a My Chemical Romance CD, a NOFX CD, and a Mozart CD, [then] play it all at once! That's what we sound like...if you don't get it, just come see us live!!!"

Monster Squad has several demos out now, (though some are hard to find anywhere), and will be releasing their upcoming EP in early summer. They've also shared the stage with bands such as HIM and Streetlight Manifesto, and will be playing this years Bamboozle Fest with My Chemical Romance, Alkaline Trio, Flogging Molly, and Thrice. Now that's something you'll definitely want to check out. In living up to the quality of their recordings, Monster Squad also puts all their energy into their live shows. Together, the band strives to "put on one of the most energetic live performances you have ever seen," something they've accomplished many times before. Also expected during most of their shows are the members randomly jumping into the pit with their instruments still on and tons of "fake blood."

When asking the band what it was they hoped to accomplish within the future, they commented, "We just want to keep doing what we're doing: recording and playing. We are looking to 'get signed' so we can spread our music out more and hopefully get some assistance with booking tours and putting our music out!"

ASH MONDAY

Written by Stephanie Fortin

Jersey punk band Ash Monday was formed after the Hillside Stranglers disbanded. Mike Strangler, having played guitar for them, Stavros filling in on bass, and Sweet Potato on the drums, they stuck together forming three-fifths of the original band. Angel War haul, being friends with Stavros and Sweet Potato, was easy to get in the band as a vocalist. Another vocalist, Roy, was cut from the band after they had experienced many difficulties with him and his sound. The name Ash Monday comes from a book relating to the Nazi Holocaust. The German soldiers who had committed the horrible crimes against humanity, were breathing the ashes from their cremated victims. The souls of the German's victims invaded the bodies of their murderers and showed them all the horrid things they had done.

The band caught their first big break on April 1st 2005, when they opened the Misfits show at the Starland Ballroom in Sayreville. When asked about their performance, Angel said, "The music sounded good, but I think I sounded like crap. But then again I always do." Commented Strangler, "I felt it was wonderful, everyone was on time and everything sounded good." Later, when being asked what the band felt playing onstage, Angel's answer, "Power, a source of energy like everyone is looking at you," and the rest of the band agreed with her statement.

Stavros, being a fan of the Misfits, agreed to being honored to open for them, but was disappointed in their performance. "It was pretty sweet, just they played really bad that night, I have seen them play a couple of times with that lineup and they have played much better." Sweet Potato just simply stated, "Yeah dude, it was friggin sweet." Strangler, having tried out for the Misfits, commented, "Well I have met Jerry before, when I tried out for them back in '95, when they were going to play the Resurrection Tour. It's really no big deal to know him."

"Um, either the house show in New Brunswick or the Queens show, not because they were so crazy, more that we had a lot of fun being together and not really knowing anyone else," Strangler answered regarding the band's craziest show ever. Angel's answer, "Starland, because they all left me alone at the merch table, jerks." Ash Monday has been together as a band for nine months now, they've released an amazing demo, and their future looks very promising.

SUFFER THE LIVING

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Nearly a year ago when guitarist Rich Lella was no longer playing with Redline, he found that Shattered Realm singer Chris Rafalowich and drummer Alex Weissman had parted ways with their band also. According to Lella, "Basically I was going crazy not being a band, and when I saw that two ex-members of Shattered Realm were available, I seized the opportunity to join up with them and start something official that wouldn't be a waste of anybody's time." The three got together, and began their search for a second guitarist. Lella soon came across a message-board post from Dustin Newcombe, with mp3's of former projects he was involved in. "Less than one minute into the first song I checked out, I heard this breakdown that sent chills up my spine, and that'd when I knew we had found our second guitarist. Then after struggling for a few months to find a bassist, Robbie came into our lives, and we have been a happy family ever since."

Robbie Spencer was the last member to complete the line-up of Suffer The Living, an unbeatable hardcore band from New Jersey. Since the band's first practice together, their musical style hasn't changed. They began knowing exactly what they wanted to play, and they've accomplished just that. Like a lot of hardcore bands, their writing process was never forced onto them. Just playing random notes, they gradually form an entire song, with Rafalowich supplying the lyrics. When asked of the band's base goals after forming, Lella commented, "Basically the main goal was to write good music and to have a good time doing it. From the beginning, we all realized that we had the potential to create something special that we could all take pride in…and from where I'm standing, I think we have done just that."

With influences like Black Dahlia Murder and Hatebreed, Suffer The Living is looking to have fun while playing, and cause some extent of chaos in the process. Just about every time the band gets together, they write new material. They are constantly putting out new music, and are currently waiting to return back to Trax East and lay down the vocals for their upcoming EP they plan to release in late June.

Lella, Rafalowich, Weissman, Newcombe, and Spencer all play significant roles among the band. In most cases it's hard to listen to their music and imagine any one member not being there. They have massively heavy breakdowns, which have totally abolished the extent of pushing this blasting hardcore/metal music down your throat.

There is no "concrete" touring schedule as of now for Suffer The Living, but the members do intend on playing shows throughout the summer.

FOUR LETTER LIE

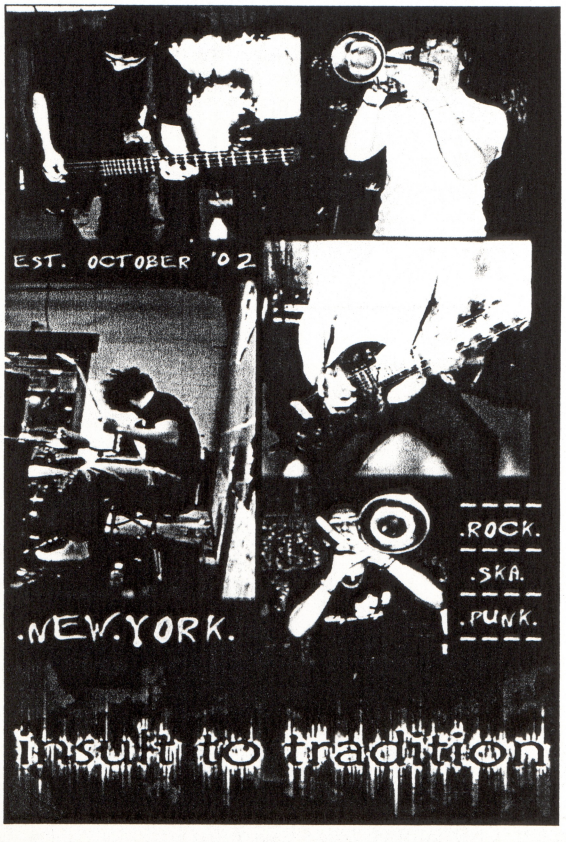
Written by Alexis Diane Cook

From Minnesota, hardcore/rock band Four Letter Lie has just recently released their EP *Her Escape*, and are currently booking a full U.S. summer tour! Singer Brian Nagan, guitarists Kevin Skaff and Karl Kittelson, bassist John Waltmann, and drummer Connor Kelly have put together a hardcore band that can rock n' roll just as hard as they can scream their heads off. With the exception of Skaff, Four Letter Lie is the first band it's members have ever been a part of, and since forming they have reached to get their music heard, appreciated, and loved by as many fans as possible. Just by listening to their music, it wouldn't be hard to imagine that their fan-base must be huge. Their music consists of fast, upbeat drum kicks and guitars that put a "fun sort of edge" into the songs, so that fans can dance as much as they throwdown to Four Letter Lies' set. The band is running closer to a rock border, but even softer songs, slowed down from the heat of their hardcore base, still hold a powerful influence on them. Either way, the band is totally wild and unbelievable, the music is outstanding, and when they begin their tour it's an absolute *must* that you go out to a venue near you and see them for yourself!

INSULT TO TRADITION

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

So-called "experimental rock with a brass section." Now that's not something you are use to hearing everyday, now is it? Insult To Tradition pumps out excessive rock music, covering all aspects of the genre entirely. Song writing is a group effort for the band. As commented, "We all get together and contribute our own individual ideas. Sometimes some of us will come up with a short motif, or Ryan will come up with a 'song in the works' on guitar." But no matter how Insult To Tradition is directly writing their songs, the music is all together amazing. Doing a live set, the members are always looking for a mutual connection with their fans. The constant energy is a huge effect in live performances. As of now they are currently recording new material which will appear on their upcoming CD to be released before their tour in July. Until then, the band does have a six-song EP out, *The History Of Things To Come*, which they have available with them at shows, and available through mail order.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Since forming, they have released two demos and are now in the process of recording their first album titled, *The Darkest Hour*. They are also in the middle of planning three shows, along with the opportunity of touring with a number of bands this coming June. Starting with slight jokes here and there, singer Alex Gata, guitarists AJ Dimambro and Vin Zerbo, drummer Chris Guderian, and bassist Chris Mitchell became serious when putting together In Loving Memory, a Jersey hardcore/rock band. When asked about their live performances, the band answered, "Well we got wireless everything so we are known for going insane and playing in the crowd...we are also known for our unexpected guitar riffs and our insane beats on the drums, our mind blowing bass lines, and our chaotic scream, we are also known to work well with each other and create songs rapidly." In Loving Memory isn't just in search of the usual record deal bands are always hoping for, but also to better themselves in any way possible, satisfy all their fans with their live performances, and to always have fun playing. Extraordinary music bursting from every area and form of the music they play, In Loving Memory, through their music alone, shows their ability to top all bands they play with, and catch your attention full-force with every song.

HELLEPHANT

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

They're the sort of band you're just so damn eager to see play. Along with their drummer, so entertaining and crazy to watch, and their singer being "notorious for forgetting the words," Hellephant may be an insane band to be standing next to at shows, but they're not there to force their hardcore pounding music into the audience. Drummer Rob Ramos, singer Chad Odell, bassist Josh Haino, and guitarist Frank Albanese are playing a "different" style of hardcore; a set where you won't find any "hard breakdown mosh parts." Though to some, Jersey band is leaning closer to a rock genre, but the hardcore bashed within their music seems to be keeping them close inline with other local scene bands. Though a tour for this band is currently not in the making, that's not stopping them from playing any shows. Hellephant later commented that, "Musically we've really evolved from our first show. We're still in our hometown as of now, but we're all ready to start getting around." Waiting upon the mastered copy of their demo, *His Panic Attack*, the members are playing everywhere they can at every chance they get. Hellephant's music surely is held tight, but Haino is also with another band "still in the works with some other good friends" and does maintain they will more than likely "keep it in the garage for now." Added on to that, he's starting his own production company called LISIN, yet another point to be able to help out new and up-coming bands.

A VOID WITHIN

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

"Speedmetal, mosh, and chaos. All thrown into one heap of music, and it sounds very heavy." Outstanding. As the hardcore/metal Jersey band, A Void Within, consisting of Ron Kubik on lead guitar, Dave Cortes on rhythm guitar, and Tom Blomquist and Ron Gilbert on vocals, are currently recording and looking for summer tour dates. They may be performing with The Kisscut in California over the summer (great anticipation waiting on that one), along with releasing their eight-track album. They've had too many lineup changes, but have written nearly 18 songs together, striving to make music that they love and gather as big of a fan-base as they can. With the music this band is playing though, it's hard to imagine them *not* maintaining an amazing fan-base. They're hard and heavy, and provide every aspect of hardcore and metal deep within their songs. With influences like Norma Jean and Bury Your Dead, A Void Within has created unbelievable music, playing tough and intense at every show; never a let-down. Their music is fast and uncontrollable, pure rage screaming out with each song, and every ounce of hardcore pouring from their veins. Something to die for when you're standing right in front of them as they play. The band's only stage tactics are to put out an amazing show. Still very impressive, considering the level of music they have to back them up.

THE MAYFLOWER BLUEPRINT

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

London Bridge Is Falling Down, the upcoming full length from New Jersey-based hardcore band The Mayflower Blueprint, will be available this August! As for now, singer Jordan Ellefson, guitarists Ronnie Scouten and Jimi Abbott, bassist Bill DeVore, and drummer Dano Scouten just have their five-song demo with them at all shows. As for touring, they will be spending a week playing shows up and down New Jersey with Fake Your Death and Arcanum. All music by The Mayflower Blueprint is so far beyond the definition of excellence. Even through their breakdowns, the weight of this band drowns you into their own world of massive mania, and you're fully disturbed by the extravagance, talent, and ability these musicians have to play. According to the band, "We put out a very energetic show, and enjoy it most when we get a good reaction from the energy we are giving off…come see it, it's something you'll never want to miss." If anything, I'm sure the "guitar-swinging, head-banging, hugging, kissing, touching interaction" will send off an unbelievable vibe to their audience as well.

Shows to check out:

June 10th @ Zinga's Corn Patch in Sparta NJ w/ Fake Your Death.

June 11th @ McAffee Fire Pavillion in Franklin w/ Waiting for Sunset (reunion show), Screams from the Burn Unit.

THE KISSCUT

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Every show is deeply crazy, whether they're requesting anything unusual of the venue they're playing at or not, their two-stepping, throw-down fans are still having a blast and giving their full support to the band. When asked what it was that keeps the band together, guitarist Dave Torosian very simply commented, "I don't know, but whatever it is, it's working." Fair enough. Often categorized as a hardcore/metal band, The Kisscut's music is classic, and their creativity has to be one of the major factors distinguishing them from other hardcore bands. It's just like this non-stop pounding. Their driving-creative force is all their inspiration, something a lot of hardcore bands can never fit perfectly together, but it shows within the music The Kisscut is writing. Hopes are only to witness this brilliant madness during their live performances. As far as releases go, the band is constantly writing new songs, barely ever stopping, and are always putting out new material. They're hoping for their next release to be "somewhat of a full-length." And the tours? A small upper East Coast tour should definitely go over well for the members. The Kisscut intends on playing shows through New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, along with rumors of them going out to California for a couple performances alongside A Void Within.

BLACK AMYLASE

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

Central Jersey-based, nothing but wicked noise echoing through the walls, Black Amylase has just recently come out of the studio releasing their EP, *Anoxia*. Marc Yajcaji (vocals), Baines Kluxen (guitars), Andrew Joffe (guitars), Nick Bender (bass), and Conor Robertson (drums), have produced this massive sound of hardcore and metal combined with most of their influences, bands such as The Chariot, Every Time I Die, and The Bled. All the material is quite original, though, and strictly in-your-face experimental, grind, and overly melodic. The music is not too heavy, it's not too metal, but not lacking in its hardcore vibe. All aspects of their talent blend together in their raging music. As a band, they have pushed away all ideas of side projects entirely, dedicating almost all of their time, energy, and life into the band. As of now, Black Amylase's music is becoming more complex (a note for their fans to expect some awesome new material very soon!), and its members are looking very forward to their upcoming show on June 12th at Froggers Skateway alongside Sky Set Unfold!! When asked on their feelings regarding the show, "We're stoked to play the next show...we hope to bring the mosh!" Yes, and we all hope so too!

THE VERY FIRST SHOW

A SCENE SET IN PANIC

MAY 15TH 2005

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

A Scene Set In Panic played their first show as a band on Sunday May 15th at Froggers Skateway alongside bands such as Ash Monday, In Memory Of, and Infairverona. The set went over amazingly well, as the crowd was fully into the music. Though the members -Tim Pringle (guitar), Nick Hertzberg (vocals), Jared Temple (drums), and The Jaron (bass)- weren't as crazy as some of the other local bands normally are, there were no noticeable slip-ups within the performance whatsoever. Not long before this particular show did the band have a slight lineup change, but they didn't let it effect their playing and concentration on getting themselves heard, and proving their talents. All in all, A Scene Set In Panic showed to be a very impressive band. It was always one thing to hear their music through a stereo or computer, but seeing them live and hearing the music right from the amps next to your head is a completely different story. The experimental vibe you'd get from listening just took over your entire body literally being at the show to see them. Outstandingly enough for the band, they now have a fan-base growing around them. Whether big or small it's hard to tell at this point, but more of the crowds are bringing up the band name each day, more kids are wanting to go to another show to see them play again.

A SCENE SET IN PANIC

www.ascenesetinpanic.tk

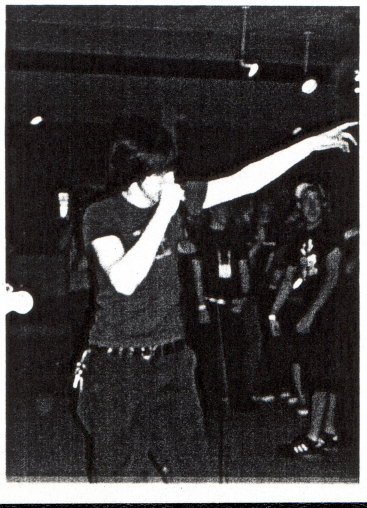
www.myspace.com/ascenesetinpanic

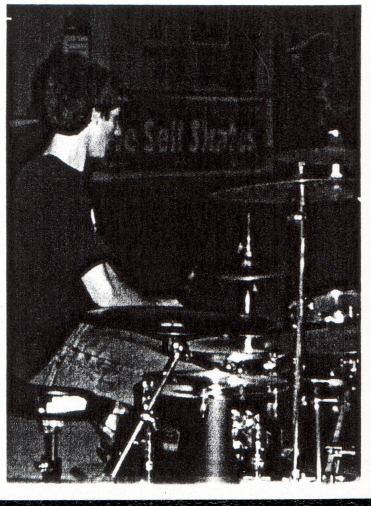
www.purevolume.com/ascenesetinpanic

June 12th @ Froggers Skateway, Manahawkin NJ

A Scene Set In Panic
In Regards
Infairverona
Sky Set Unfold
In Memory Of
Gray Lines Of Perfection
The Dead Season
Black Amylase
Anne Frank
The Concubine

Doors @ 6pm $7





SAMARRAH

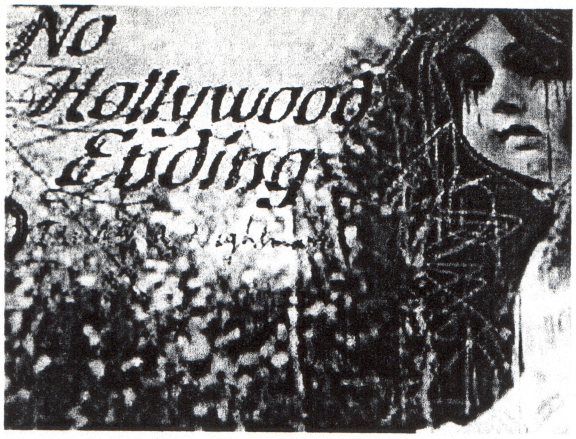
Written by Alexis Diane Cook

As of now, the band is working on writing songs, fundraising to help with the recording process, and will be playing in New York through June 10th-12th. They intend on playing a few shows through the upper East Coast over the summer, but don't hold any huge tours. Members Keith Tuttle and Jeff Gluck on guitars, Dan Mathews on drums, Chris Russo with vocals, and Matt Sharpe on bass, have formed a sound that's totally metal/hardcore, but with some of the most attention-getting guitar riffs and transitions throughout most of their songs. With breakdowns to shake up the entire venue, and mesmerizing vocals, Samarrah is definitely not a band to miss seeing. They plan to record and get a full length out between the end of this year and beginning of next year, and are in the mists of improving their line of merchandise. They don't have any huge stage antics, but that takes nothing away from the talent of this band. Though it has been noted by the band, "Jeff and Matt do simultaneous back-flips while soloing at least once a show." Very amusing. Together they just want to have fun playing, and kill time while doing something they truly love. Their music is hard, and never loses pace; something a lot of bands need to be extremely careful about, but it's not a worry when it comes down to Samarrah's sound. Last commented by the group, "Musically we are five men who came out of the ashes of a thriving musical genre to create the band known as Samarrah. Blending a unique style of metal and hardcore with deep, meaningful lyrics that are vents from actual personal issues, Samarrah isn't just another band from the New Jersey scene."

THE BREAKOUT

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

From Black Flag to With Honor, Blink182 to Saves The Day, hardcore/metal/punk band The Breakout has a huge line of influences from a wide variety of genres. Most of their greatest influences have also slowly found way into their songs. Singer Garrett Mutz, guitarist Justin Pignatore, bassist John Marks, and drummer Tim Coyle are just wanting to see as many people as possible come to their shows, listening to the music they love to write and play. Although nearly five years ago when the band was quietly forming, the members listened to a more pop punk style of music, which showed in their playing, lineups altered, and they progressed in their playing abilities. They later began listening to much heavier music, which, again, now shows in their music today. They are putting together this major hardcore feeling in all their songs, with rough breakdowns and lots of noise. Commented Marks, "All along we've written whatever kind of music we want to write, nothing else. We're trying to constantly make progress in our songwriting, and we're not looking to record the same record twice." The Breakout currently has an EP out on Try Dying Records, and is shooting to release a full length by fall/winter. The shows are important, and they're looking to play as many as possible through the summer. Their live shows are awesome, they try as much as they can to bring so much feeling and energy into their set. "The songs sound pissed off, and we look pissed off, because we *are* pissed off," Marks stated regarding their shows, "We put legitimate feeling into all of the songs we write, so I don't think we *could* just stand around live, even if we wanted to."



NO HOLLYWOOD ENDING

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

"To do what others have not yet done." Very classic. And very direct quote at that, made by hardcore Jersey band, No Hollywood Ending. As a band, Frank Osler (vocals), Brett Turner (synth and vocals), CLC (guitar and vocals), Chris Skerstad (bass), Steve Gotthelf (drums), and Ryan Lesinski (guitar) are striving for "success, money, and heavy melodic madness." Currently, No Hollywood Ending is writing up songs for their two upcoming CD's. The band will be releasing their full length, along with a full length B-sides. Though some members write more than others, everyone is always throwing in their own ideas, which have come down to make No Hollywood Ending what it is. They will be entering the studio for recording in late May, and will be playing shows across the country for two weeks in July. Their stage performances are unreal, every show the band gives it their all, always playing the best they can. Members of the band can easily become so intense while playing, and the stage antics are extravagant, most noticeably Osler's back flips, drop kicks, and bleeding forehead. They tend to occupy themselves so much when playing, the music becomes "uncontrollable." No Hollywood Ending's loud music of sick breakdowns and obnoxious guitars is earning them so many fans at this point. The fan-base really is unbelievable, and the band is more than happy with it, but has also commented that, "it could be a million or two bigger." But the fans are still there to support them with all they can. Some of the members are involved with side projects, CLC a part of The Suspex, and Turner a part of The In Out In Out. But nothing could take them away from No Hollywood Ending.

THE DEAD SEASON

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

"I guees to some it all up into three words, I would say we strive for rock n' roll," commented The Dead Season vocalist David Kelly, "all we do when we tour is watch *School Of Rock…*" Kelly, along with band mates Sri Rao (guitars), Rob Wojcik (guitars), Toby Touch (drums), and Mauricio Sesma (bass) have only been a band for a year now and have gone through Hellfest, Jackle and Hyde Tour, two more tours aside from that, released their EP, and got on a compilation from Syndicate Records. With new material the band has been writing up, The Dead Season will be heading into the studio in late June to begin recording for their upcoming five-song EP they plan to have with them on the road this summer. Through July 6th to August 8th, they will be touring along the East Coast and Mid-West with fellow hardcore bands Bela Kiss and Highwater Waltz. The Dead Season really portrays modernized hardcore/rock music, immensely hard, full of life, and has you dancing your way through every song. As individual members however, they are overly diverse. As stated by Kelly, "You got me and Rob who listen to a lot of screamish music, and rock…while you have Sri and Mauricio who listen to a lot of melodic hardcore…and Toby Touch who could listen to any band that has a breakdown…" Through the massive amount of creativity The Dead Season's members put into their work, fans should definitely be expecting a magnificant tour this summer!

BELA KISS
www.myspace.com/belakiss

Highwater Waltz
www.myspace.com/highwaterwaltz

A COMMON END

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

They're one of the most astonishing hardcore bands South Jersey has ever really seen play. The few times that they come down from New York are the few times where fans are literally dying to go to the show. Sean Walsh (vocals), Sam Fruner (guitars), Mike Seghposs (guitars), Pat Kenny (bass), and Steve Muskopf (drums) form the current lineup of New York-based hardcore band A Common End. They were friends before the band even began, which has been a major help in them sticking together. They never write fake music, and they put their hearts into all their songs and live performances. "We are a heavy band, but we play a lot of different stuff," Muskopf commented, "we got tired of hearing the same songs played over and over again by so many generic bands, and we try to switch it up every now and then." Live, they do all they can to put on a good show. Each member contributes a different sort of vibe to make the set more energetic, and to get the crowds more into their music. The two demos A Common End has out now are both fantastic. All songs are overpowering, and they're the type you're not going to take out of the stereo when the last song ends, you'll just hit play again and love every moment of it. On a side note, A Common End is also one of the most considerate bands I have personally ever met. Most bands will love their fans to death, and greatly appreciate them, but bands like A Common End that care to *intensely* about their fans as they do rarely come around much. That's definitely part of what makes them kick so much ass.

GRAY LINES OF PERFECTION

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

"We have grown so much musically over the last two years of being a band. We have all grown in experience and dedication as we improve in our instruments and working together as a group," commented Jersey Christian/hardcore band Gray Lines Of Perfection. Singer Kyle Mohr, guitarists Michael Craven and Matt Dittus, and drummer Mark Luckasavage are making sure their band is different than all others involved in the local scene. Nobody ever wants to hear two of the same band. The music coming from this Gray Lines Of Perfection is so brilliantly odd and unreal that there's nearly no way to think they could possibly sound like someone else. They keep their music tight and real, adding in outstanding electronics and the most outrageous screams. Vocals in all songs are magnificent, guitar riffs that you're wildest dreams and nightmares have never even held, and drum beats that will destroy the venue. "Most importantly we believe God gave us the talents we posses," they stated, "so what better way to show him praise then by the gifts he gave us?" Live performances are amazing, "deep-dish head-banging is a must." And when asked of the crowds attending these shows, the band responded, "We love when kids dance at our shows and we see them having fun. Even better is when they know the words to the songs. We would rather have five kids singing than twenty dancing." As of now, the band is continuing with shows through surrounding cities, but the tour they had plans on doing have been slightly altered due to their small record deal. In late June they will be heading into Stained Glass Studios to begin recording their upcoming full length which will be released off Less Avenged Records this fall.

MAY 8TH SHOW
FROGGERS SKATEWAY

ANNE FRANK & AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

CUT IT OUT, TEXT OF ANNIHILATION, THE HELL, INFAIRVERONA

Written by Alexis Diane Cook

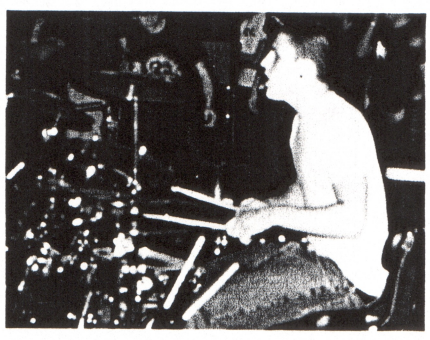
May 8th 2005 had set in stone yet another incredible show for bands, And Then There Were None and Anne Frank. The performance took place at Froggers Skateway, in Manahawkin NJ. The two massive bands performed alongside fellow hardcore bands, Cut It Out, Text Of Annihilation, The Hell, and the ever popular Infairverona. And Then There Were None and Anne Frank's first show together (when they were known as On Wings Of Horror) dates back to December 2004 when the bands finally met. An unreal number of e-mails were put out between both bands and I before finding the opening, getting the show in order, and waiting anxiously for the music.

On May 8th, opening band of the night was Cut It Out, made up of members from the South Jersey hardcore band At Arms Length. First song of the night didn't do the band much justice, but not even halfway through the set the fans grew upon the band and the floor-punching and spin-kicking began at every which way. Outside of the band's pessimistic views, their set went over pretty damn well, and many fans were pleased with the outcome of the performance.

Text Of Annihilation played second, putting out strong music; adding in outstandingly, in the night of chaos and extreme mania. This band's set had actually gone over well more-so than most of the bands performing. They put out some of the heaviest, intense music of the night.

Anne Frank made their performance in the third slot of the night as one of the three main bands the crowd was there to see. This was also the first show they performed using their new name. As usual,

ANNE FRANK
Elias Moreno



ANNE FRANK
Scott Gulden

no one could get enough of their lavish performance. Earlier through the weeks, the band did not advance in Jersey Shows Battle Of The Bands as they did in the first round back in February, but their fans were still overly supportive, something very obvious within this particular show. There was more than just dancing and singing and screaming inside the set. Anne Frank holds fans that really know how to connect with one another, who are not just "into" the band or scene per say, but have quietly placed the band itself into an entire section of their lives.

Performing, they were absolutely hysterical. Forget about how wild the crowds were, Anne Frank was so far out of control. Guitarists Aaron Budd and Brian Kline were unstoppable, constantly thrashing the guitars, without a care in the world, sweating out of their minds, and rarely made it through two seconds without moving. Singer Jimmy Mulligan gave an awesome stage vibe, with an absolute

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
Dave Jewers

ANNE FRANK

Brian Kline

"They better start dancing."

Q. Where you excited to be playing another show with And Then There Were None?

A. Of course, I love them. They are one of my favorite unsigned bands.

Q. What were your first thoughts when you started playing?

A. "Shit, I [screwed] up"…and "they better start dancing."

Q. What did you think of your overall performance?

A. I had fun, it was one of the most fun shows in awhile.

Q. What was your favorite song to play, and why?

A. "Is Anyone Up For Another Round Of Russian Roulette," cause that's our craziest song.

Q. And what makes it so crazy?

A. It's really tech and I can go crazy, and it has some really nice breakdowns.

Q. What are your thoughts on the band's fan base?

A. It needs to be bigger…I'm not really sure how big it is.

Q. How does it make you feel to see kids dancing and singing along while you play?

A. Makes me smile.

Q. What do you think was the best part about the whole set?

A. The last breakdown we played.

Q. Do you think you're impressive as a band musically?

A. I think so, musically.

Q. Do you think you're impressive regarding live shows?

A. We try to make our music as technical as we can, but still make it fun to play.

ANNE FRANK
Jim Mulligan

ANNE FRANK
Aaron Budd

irresistible voice, and bassist Eli Moreno managed to pull off his unworldly tactics; the obvious, playing his instrument, and the not-so-obvious amusement that he never seems to realize half the time. Over all the set was manic. Not a single person in the venue could take their eyes off the band as they played.

The Hell was next to play in this monstrous show. And yet another set that went over unbelievably well. Like all other bands, The Hell had crowds on their feet the entire time.

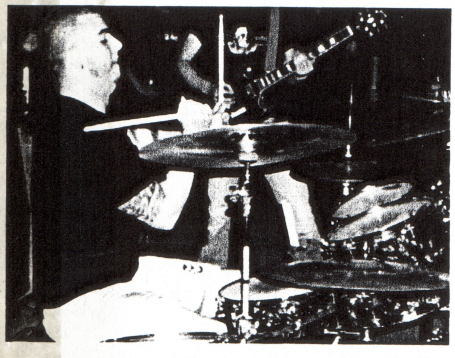
Fifth band to walk out and begin their set was the famous New Hampshire - based hardcore/metal band And Then There Were None. Kids who were present at December's show knew how impressive the band was and had completely fallen in love with their music. When the band came back for their second performance at Froggers, they were welcomed with so much love and support of everyone who came out to the show. And Then There Were None's opening song didn't hold any of the fans back from getting in their faces, dancing massively, and pounding their way so hard through every breakdown of the set. A handful of the biggest applauds of the night came while And Then There Were None were playing. No one could get over the mass hysteria the band was putting out. Singer Matt Rhoades made sure of it that he was fully involved with the crowd, talking to them, giving out thank you's, and just making sure everyone had been enjoying the night.

Unlike their last show, there were no sudden lineup changes days before. Sean Sweeney and Dave Jewers were taking over the guitars and totally ripping apart their set. Mike Moderski moved back to playing bass (as he played guitar in December) and drummer Ryan Manning was flat-out amazing to watch as he played.

While they began one of their most popular songs, "Timeless Beauty," Rhoades gave out a nice little hint to the fans regarding the sort of breakdowns the song held. And like their shows back in New Hampshire, a number of kids moved up to Rhoades, singing along with him. It was a performance set in brilliancy.

Last band of the night was Infairverona. As always, they were absolutely magnificent in playing. They opened with a newer song, one not found on *Consumption As Being*, but all vocals were outrageous, all music was kick ass, and nothing but love filled up their performance.

Amazing night, one-in-a-million, and one of the biggest shows you totally did not want to miss. Not ever.



AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
Ryan Manning

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
Matt Rhoades & Sean Sweeney

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
Mike Moderski

Crucial Point
HxC